

Chirac denies secret hostage deal

PARIS (R) — French Prime Minister Jacques Chirac Sunday denied speculation that he released from custody of a man linked to bombing in Paris was part of efforts to free three French hostages in Lebanon. Lebanon-born Mohammad Mousa was freed Friday after a year in custody on suspicion of being chief ideologue of the Solidarity Committee for Arab POWs held in the Middle East, which claimed responsibility for a 1986 wave of bombings in which 13 people died. A magistrate said there was insufficient evidence to warrant his continued detention. Mousa's release coincided with media reports that Chirac, a candidate in next month's presidential election, would fly to Lebanon April 10 for talks on freeing the three. "Mared Cade," Maxime Fourcade, "the Jean-Paul Chirac of Lebanon," told *Le Monde*. "The liberation of Mousa, which was the act of a judge, has no connection, remote, direct or indirect, with the problem of the French hostages or foreigners held in Lebanon," Chirac told a television interviewer.

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Sach calls for end to hunger strike

AMMAN (U.T.) — Palestine National Council (PNC) Speaker Sheikh Abdul-Hamid Al Sach has praised the courageous stand of the Al-Bireh-based Family Advancement Society Chairperson Samiha Salameh Khalil who is on a hunger strike in support of the uprising in the occupied territories and called on her to end her hunger strike. In a statement issued here Sunday, Sach said Khalil and her colleagues had conveyed their national message.

PLO fires rockets

SIDON (R) — The Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) said Sunday it fired rockets at northern Israeli settlements to avenge two Israeli air strikes into south Lebanon. In a statement issued in the southern Lebanese port of Sidon, the PLO said its fighters fired eight Soviet-made Grad rockets into the Galilee settlements of Kiryat Shemona and Metulla.

Nir resigns

TEL AVIV (AP) — Amiram Nir, prime minister Yitzhak Shamir's adviser involved in the Iran-contra affair, has resigned from the post, a government official said Sunday. The official told the AP that Nir has announced his resignation several days ago and that the resignation will take effect April 1.

Mitterrand remains ahead in opinion polls

PARIS (AP) — New public opinion polls published Sunday, the first since Socialist President Francois Mitterrand officially announced his re-election bid, show the incumbent remaining comfortably ahead of all his conservative rivals with about 38 percent of the votes. The same polls, one by the Louis Harris Organisation and one by IPSOS, also indicate conservative Premier Jacques Chirac is widening his lead over former centre-right leader Raymond Barre.

Baker: Iran-contra pardons unlikely

WASHINGTON (R) — White House Chief of Staff Howard Baker, in a television interview broadcast Saturday, said it was highly unlikely President Reagan would issue a pre-trial pardon for former aides indicted in the Iran-contra scandal. Baker, interviewed by the Cable News Network (CNN), said Reagan was committed to allowing the legal process to reach a conclusion before considering pardons for former White House aide Oliver North and former National Security Adviser John Poindexter.

Shim Bet chief quits

TEL AVIV (AP) — The head of Israel's Shin Bet service resigned from the post after ruling over the agency for more than 11 years on two periods, the government announced Sunday. Yosef Harnein, born in Vienna in 1923, joined Israel's secret service soon after the Zionist state came into being in 1948.

Cameroun beats Nigeria

CASABLANCA (R) — Cameroun beat Nigeria 1-0 (half-time 0-0) to win the 16th Africa Nations Cup soccer championship Sunday. Scorer: Kunde (55th minute penalty).

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Soldiers storm W. Bank village; 4 Palestinians killed

Mass arrests, economic siege fail to dent Palestinian revolt

MEITHALUN, occupied West Bank (Agencies) — Israel troops on a pre-dawn raid to arrest Palestinians shot and killed three Palestinians in this remote village Sunday and soldiers killed a fourth Palestinian in an incident involving an Israeli bus that blundered into an Arab town.

The deaths raised to 118 the number of Palestinians killed in 15 weeks of violent protests against Israel's occupation of the West Bank and Gaza, according to U.N. figures. One Israeli soldier has been killed.

Soldiers entered this village of 6,000 some 65 kilometers north of Jerusalem overnight to arrest

Palestinians suspected of anti-Israeli activities, an army spokesman said.

The overnight raids are Israel's latest tactic to try to quash the Palestinian uprising.

As the soldiers were leaving, he said, Palestinians attacked them with rocks and iron bars. When a car tried to run them

down, "the commander of the force fired," the spokesman said. The army confirmed three Arabs were killed.

Villagers denied the soldiers were attacked. They accused soldiers of shooting at cars taking wounded to hospitals.

Ahmad Abdul Rahman, a village leader, stood near the cemetery with its three fresh graves and told the AP soldiers came to his home at 3 a.m. "and asked me to guide them to the wanted men." He said troops arrested 10 to 12 men before shooting broke out.

A fourth Palestinian was shot to death when Palestinians attacked troops who came to the rescue of an Israeli bus in Salfit, 30 kilometers north of Jerusalem, the army spokesman said.

The spokesman said the driver mistook the slain boy as 14-year-old Yasser Al Khirbawi.

In Taibe, police arrested six Arabs who allegedly threw five firebombs at a police station, Israel Radio said.

Despite mass arrests, increasingly severe economic sanctions and Israeli attempts to disrupt and demoralise underground leaders of the uprising, widespread protests were again reported in the West Bank.

U.N. relief workers in the Gaza Strip said the army had arrested hundreds of local Palestinians in night raids under curfew in the last few days.

The United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) said in a statement that 400 Palestinians had been beaten by troops in a single week in the Gaza Strip alone.

In an attempt to break long-running commercial strikes, Israeli troops barred all Gaza shops from opening for the last three days, including food markets and pharmacies, residents said.

Several traders who violated the order were arrested, they said. A merchant who complained said the military governor of Gaza City told him shops would be closed at least until the end of the month.

U.N. officials also said the army cut off electricity supplies to the Deir Al Balah refugee camp, one of four Gaza Strip camps

(Continued on page 2)

(Continued on page 2)

PLO welcomes Shultz' talks with PNC members as important step

NICOSIA (Agencies) — Iran and Iraq fired missiles into each other's capitals in a brutal long-range duel Sunday as fierce battles continued in northeast Iraq in strategic heights that overlook a key hydroelectric dam.

Shipping officials reported Iranian gunboats attacked the 24,529-ton Indian tanker Jairamayan Vyas in the southern Gulf Sunday, wounding one crewman and setting it on fire.

The latest victim of the so-called "tanker war" was hit apparently in reprisal for Iraqi air raids on two tankers off Iran's Gulf coast Thursday night.

The Iraqis fired a long-range Al Hussein missile into Tehran, a city of six million, at 7:30 a.m. (0430 GMT) after vowed to "level Iran's cities," the Iraqi News Agency (INA) reported.

Hundreds of civilians on both sides have been killed in the latest resurgence of the "war of the cities."

Tehran Radio reported that the Iraqis also fired four missiles at

"many civilians killed or wounded, including women and children."

The radio made no mention of a second Iranian missile.

Iraq has fired 120 long-range missiles into Tehran, Isfahan and the holy city of Qom, seat of Iran's religious hierarchy, since Feb. 29.

The Iraqis have reported firing 45 long-range missiles into Baghdad and dozen short-range projectiles into other Iraqi cities in that period.

Hundreds of civilians on both sides have been killed in the latest resurgence of the "war of the cities."

The Iraqis also fired four missiles at

"industrial and military installations" in the strategic southern Iraqi port of Basra, and two other border towns further north Sunday.

Basra, Al Amara, a major military staging area to the north, and nine other towns in the southern and central sectors of the front line, were pounded with artillery fire Saturday and Sunday, Baghdad Radio said.

Fighting in northeast

IRNA, in a series of reports from Iraq's northern Sulaymaniyah province, said guards had advanced to within eight kilometers of a dam and hydroelectric power station on Lake

(Continued on page 2)

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Open university opens the shutters

Sana Atiyeh reports on the prospects of Al Quds Open University.

AMMAN — Al Quds Open University (QOU), the first of its kind in the Arab World, has become known among the international network of distance education institutions, according to Shannon Timmers, director of International Development Office of the Open Learning Agency (OLA) of British Columbia in Canada.

Timmers, who recently visited QOU with two other Canadian specialists in distance education, told the Jordan Times that as far as he observed, QOU is doing just as well as any other similar institution in the preparatory stage, and expects it to begin operation on schedule in Oct. 88.

"The development of QOU with its successes and problems are experienced by every other distance education institution: The social acceptance, credibility, legitimacy, the requirements of the systems, and the technology, planning, developing and supporting of student activities," Timmers noted.

Timmers believes that though QOU might be facing some difficulties in starting their courses, "in three years from now, people will come knocking on the doors of QOU for expertise and material," he predicted.



Al Quds Open University headquarters in Amman.

QOU should be regarded as an essential element in serving students in the occupied territories. They say that education is a major part of their struggle against the Zionist occupation, and that QOU will be able to cater for those who cannot continue their higher education in conventional institutions, either because they must work to survive or because their political activities take much of their time.

More funds needed

Keith Harry, documentation officer of the International Centre for Distance Learning at the Open University in the United Kingdom, said: "QOU could use more funding because it is quite expensive for any distance education institution to start off. Only when it starts working and during a certain stage of teaching it becomes a low-cost system. Because lot is saved for not having to provide the facilities needed in conventional on-campus universities."

Harry told the Jordan Times that the staff of QOU has a "tremendous amount" of enthusiasm, and whether they will operate on schedule or not depends on their commitment."

QOU aims and structure

QOU's main objective is not only to provide the opportunity for the largest number of Palestinian and young Arab men and women to obtain higher education and training, but also to democratise higher education in the Arab society, according to Kamhawi. "Through distance education, QOU will make higher learning and training accessible to the less fortunate among the socially and economically disadvantaged groups," he said.

The expert, who was on his way back to England after his visit from the Open University in Pakistan, noted that all open universities around the world have faced problems in the beginning because of their unconventional system, "there is usually strong

(UNESCO) in 1980, it was found that only 35 per cent of those expected to apply between 1985 and 1990 to conventional universities and colleges will find places; and only 30 per cent between 1990 and 1995.

Kamhawi speculated that if financial resources and logistics were available, the university would be able to reach and teach approximately 60,000 students by 1991.

Kamhawi said that the open university will enable people to obtain their education while earning a living wherever they are, regardless of age, academic achievement or economic means. He explained that there will be regional centres to coordinate the work between the headquarters in Amman and the sub-regional and local centres. In addition, local study units will be established in cities, towns, villages, and refugee camps, if the optimum number of students is between 50 to 100, in order to maximise interaction between students and tutors, and among students themselves.

QOU will offer required courses in learning how to learn, Arabic and English languages, computer science, introduction to statistics, methods of scientific research, Palestine and the Palestinian problem, living with technology, human civilisation and its achievements, the Arab Islamic civilisation, and contemporary challenges in the Arab World.

The open university will also offer courses leading to specific degrees in technology and applied sciences, including electronic and mechanical engineering and informatics. Other degree programmes include home and family development, land and rural development, management and entrepreneurship, education and in-service teachers training.

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15:30 Koran
15:50 Children's programmes
16:30 Al Manahil (children's educational programme)

17:15 Programme on History of Mathematics
17:15 Oliver Twist
18:00 Programme on Education
18:30 Local series
19:05 Local programme
19:50 Programme review
20:00 News in Arabic
20:30 Arabic Series
21:30 Local programmes
22:30 Programme on film director Salab Abu Safi

PROGRAMME TWO

18:00 Le Carnaval De Bal
19:00 News in French
19:15 Weekly Sport magazine (French)
20:00 News in Arabic
20:30 Are You Being Served?
21:10 Rags to Riches
22:00 News in English
22:30 Feature film: "A Star is Born"

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13:00 Pop Session Contd.
14:00 Newsbulletin
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15:00 Concert Hour
News Summary
16:00 Instrumental
16:30 Old Favourites
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Pop Session
17:00 News Summary
Sports Roundup
18:00 Music
19:00 News
19:00 News 19:10 Focus 19:30 Special
English News & Features 20:00 News
20:10 Newsline 20:30 Magazine Show
19:00 News 19:10 Focus 19:30 Special
English News & Features 20:00 News
20:10 Newsline 20:30 Magazine Show
21:00 News Summary
21:05 Evening Show Contd.
22:00 News Summary
22:05 Evening Show Continued

WHAT'S GOING ON

TODAY'S EVENTS

EXHIBITIONS

* Egyptian Book Exhibition at the Professional Association Union.

* An art exhibition by Olivia Pallard at Alia Art Gallery (until March 28).

* Book exhibition at the Comprehensive Commercial Centre (Tower Building), Jabal Amman, 3rd Circle (permanent).

* General book exhibition at the Professional Associations Complex in Shmeisani.

* Art exhibition by Samie Zarour at the Jordan National Museum of Fine Arts (until end of March).

* Art exhibition by Mohammad Boulos and Mourina Al Tunisiah at the Housing Bank Gallery (runs through April 19).

* First School Arts Exhibition at Ahmad Touqan School. Open during school hours until June 1988.

* Exhibition for the Spanish artist Maria Dolores Travesedo at the Spanish Cultural Centre (until March 30).

* From Gutenberg to Electronic Dar el Tifl (until 11 April) Goethe Institute.

* British Illustration from Caxton to Chaucer (from through April 31) at British Council.

* An exhibition about French architecture at the Faculty of Engineering, University of Jordan (until March 29).

* Les Batisseurs D'empire de Boris

JAZZ PERFORMANCES

* The Kevin Embanks Trio are visiting Jordan, March 23 through March 29. The trio, a guitarist, bassist and drummer, perform an energised brand of contemporary jazz. For more details on the trio's performances, please call the American Centre.

THEATRE

* Les Batisseurs D'empire de Boris

NATIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

SHOOTING ACES: His Royal Highness Prince Mohammad Saturday received a Jordan Shooting Federation team which returned home from Egypt after taking part in the first Arab shooting championship held last week. The team won three gold medals, five silver medals and 2 bronze medals.

WOMEN IN UPRISING: Former Information Minister Laila Sharaf addressed a press conference Sunday by a special women's committee for supporting the Palestinian uprising. Sharaf stressed women's role in supporting the uprising by holding bazaars, exhibitions and football matches to raise funds.

BLOOD DONATION: Friends of the Blood Bank at the University of Jordan Sunday launched a blood donation campaign, aimed at disseminating information on advantages of blood donation, and to encourage students to donate blood to the blood bank.

PILGRIM ISSUES: Ministry of Awqaf Secretary General Abdul Salam Al Abbadi Sunday reviewed with the Pilgrimage Affairs Committee issues pertaining to transporting and accommodating Jordanian pilgrims during the 1988 pilgrimage to Mecca and stressed the ministry's interests to upgrade the standards of services rendered to pilgrims.

BULGARIAN TOURISM: Minister of Tourism Zuhair Ajlouni met in his office Sunday with a Bulgarian television crew now on a visit to Jordan to prepare a documentary on tourist and archaeological sites in Jordan to be shown by Bulgarian Television on Jordan's Independence Day, May 25. The TV crew later met with Minister of Information Hani Khasawneh who spoke on Jordan's information policy and the situation in the Middle East.

IZMIR SEMINAR: Minister of Planning Taher Kanaan left for Turkey Sunday to take part in a two-day seminar on planning and executing economic adaptation programmes in the Arab World organised by the World Bank. Ministers from Tunisia, Algeria, Egypt, Morocco and Pakistan in addition to Jordan and a number of officials from the International Monetary Fund will take part in the meeting which opens today.

COUNCILS: Minister of Municipal and Rural Affairs and the Environment Yousef Hamdan Al Jaber has decided to form municipal committees in Balqa, Zarqa, Karak and Mafrqa governorates and in Madaba district. The new municipal committees are in Karameh, Rawda, and Kafrein in Balqa Governorate, Um Al Jimal in Mafrqa Governorate, Al Qasr, Rakin in Karak Governorate, Um Al Suieil in Zarqa Governorate and Jarinet Al Shawakeb in Madaba district.

PRINCE RA'D: Chief Chamberlain Prince Ra'd Ibn Zaid Sunday presided over a meeting held at Nazik Al Harri Special Education Centre, to discuss a special law on the disabled, prepared by the Labour and Social Development Ministry.

PAGE ONE

Israeli measures fail to dent revolt

(Continued from page 1) the village of Burka, near Hebron.

An army spokeswoman said she had strict orders not to disclose figures for the numbers of arrests, "administrative detentions" without trial or new prison camps opened.

Palestinian sources and international relief workers estimate that between 5,000 and 8,000 Palestinians are now under arrest.

Israel Radio said "many dozens" of Arabs were arrested in recent weeks on suspicion of taking part in protests.

Police also interrogated a number of left-wing Jewish activists implicated in anti-Israel demonstrations, the radio said.

Israeli officials said the arrests were an attempt to forestall expected unrest on Land Day, next Wednesday, when Arabs mark the anniversary of the 1976 killing of six demonstrators protesting against land confiscation.

PLO welcomes Shultz' meeting

(Continued from page 1)

an Iraqi city despite Security Council mandatory Resolution 598 which called for a comprehensive peaceful settlement."

Hamdoon was referring to the northeastern Iraqi town of Halabja which Iran seized in a cross-border thrust last week.

Foreign Ministry Under-Secretary Nizar Hamdoon in a statement said the secretary general's statement was biased and "ignored a most important fact, namely Iran's occupation of

an Iraqi city despite Security Council mandatory Resolution 598 which called for a comprehensive peaceful settlement."

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Ceremony to inaugurate broiler chicken project

AMMAN (Petra) — A ceremony will be held in Azraq, north east of here, Tuesday for the official inauguration of a project for the production of broiler chicken under the patronage of His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan.

The project, initiated in 1985 by the Arab Company for the Development of Animal Wealth (ACDAW), is currently producing 415,000 egg-laying hens, six million chicken for meat, and seven million table eggs, according to Ministry of Agriculture Secretary General Saleem Al Lawzi.

He said that when the project goes into full production a total of 13 million eggs will be hatched annually.

Lawzi said the project consists of eight different units one of which is used as a laboratory for conducting tests, and one contains services and administration buildings and workers residential quarters.

He said Jordan was chosen for the project in view of its central

location within the Arab World and due to the facilities it offers for transporting the products by land and air to various countries in the Gulf and the Mediterranean regions.

The ACDAW plans to undertake commercial, industrial and agricultural activities related to the production of poultry meat and eggs, and carry out other activities related to the project.

The ACDAW has established three important poultry projects, one in Saudi Arabia, which has a capacity of six million chicken a year, the other in Qatar with a capacity of 3.2 million chickens and 26 million eggs annually, and the third in Sudan which has 2.6 million chicken and 15 million egg capacity every year.

Lawzi said despite the production many Arab countries still depend on foreign imports of chicken and eggs, and for this reason the ACDAW has decided to increase production by launching this project in Jordan.



Her Majesty Queen Noor Sunday meets with 27 American professors currently on a visit to Jordan (Petra photo)

Experts call for more care in teaching Arabic

AMMAN (Petra) — A seminar organised by the Jordan Academy of Arabic (JAA) on the teaching of foreign languages and their effect on Arab children, heard calls for more attention and care to be given for the teaching of Arabic.

One of the participants, Dr. Nasrat Abdul Rahman, said that there was no need for Arab children to start learning a foreign language at the elementary level, for fear it would reduce the student's ability to learn the mother language on solid basis.

Seminar debates specifications in various Arab countries

AMMAN (Petra and J.T.) — A five-day seminar on developing the activities of standardisation and metrology departments in the Arab World opened in Amman Sunday.

The participants will discuss working papers on standards and specifications in various Arab countries and means of removing obstacles impeding them.

Addressing the opening session was Minister of Industry, Trade and Supply Hamdi Tabbaa, who said that his ministry was undertaking measures for coordinating national efforts in support of standardisation and metrology for the sake of promoting national industry.

"Unifying standards and specifications should be the task of all commercial, industrial and scientific

institutions in the country, which ought to take part in the pan-Arab efforts for laying down unified specifications and standards for the Arab World," Tabbaa said.

The seminar which was organised by the Arab Organisation for Standardisation and Metrology (AOSM) is being attended by specialists from Arab and foreign countries.

AOSM Secretary General Mahdi Hammoush, who addressed the meeting, underlined the importance of unified standards for the Arab World. He said that the vast growth and fast developing industry and technology in developed nations make it incumbent on the Arabs to undertake measures to unify their specifications and measures for their industries.



Minister of Industry, Trade and Supply Hamdi Tabbaa Sunday opens Seminar on activities of Arab World Standardisation and Metrology departments (Petra photo)

Abdul Rahman said that a foreign language could be taught once the students have had a very good command of their own language.

He urged educators and concerned authorities to reexamine the philosophy of teaching another language at this stage.

Another participant was Dr. Mohammad Awad, who said that Yarmouk University students were suffering from poor Arabic, and that more stress should be laid on Arabic teaching at schools before the students reach the university level.

Her Majesty Queen Noor met at Basman Palace Sunday with a group of 27 professors from the Joseph Malone Faculty who are taking part in a programme on Arab and Islamic studies in Jordan, Egypt, Tunisia and North Yemen.

The Queen and the visitors reviewed bilateral cooperation in cultural, historical and scientific fields between Jordanian and American universities, with both sides stressing the importance of visits by academicians from both

countries as a means to enhance cooperation.

The professors, who represent universities in Alabama and Ohio, are here in the course of a programme organised by the Council on U.S.-Arab Relations which was established in 1984.

The programme provides American educators with an opportunity to visit the Arab World, and gain first-hand insight into the region and its people and later to relay and integrate this experience in their academic and professional programmes.

During their stay in the Arab countries participants receive instruction in Arab culture and history, contemporary Arab society, Arabic language and Islam.

They attend lectures and briefings by government officials and specialists, meet with academic counterparts at host universities, and visit the country's historical and cultural sites.

The visit to Jordan was planned in coordination with the Arab Cultural Association, the University of Jordan and Yarmouk University.

NAF distributes JD 67,000 for 300 families

AJLOUN (Petra) — The National Aid Fund (NAF) office in Ajloun last year distributed JD 67,000 to 300 needy families in Ajloun district, in urgent and regular financial aid, according to the office Director Ibrahim Rababa.

Rababa said that the office set up a national committee front Ajloun district last January to help the office define the needy families and distribute allocations to them.

This year Rababa said the NAF office in Ajloun plans to carry out three projects for rehabilitating handicapped persons at the total cost of JD 25,140.

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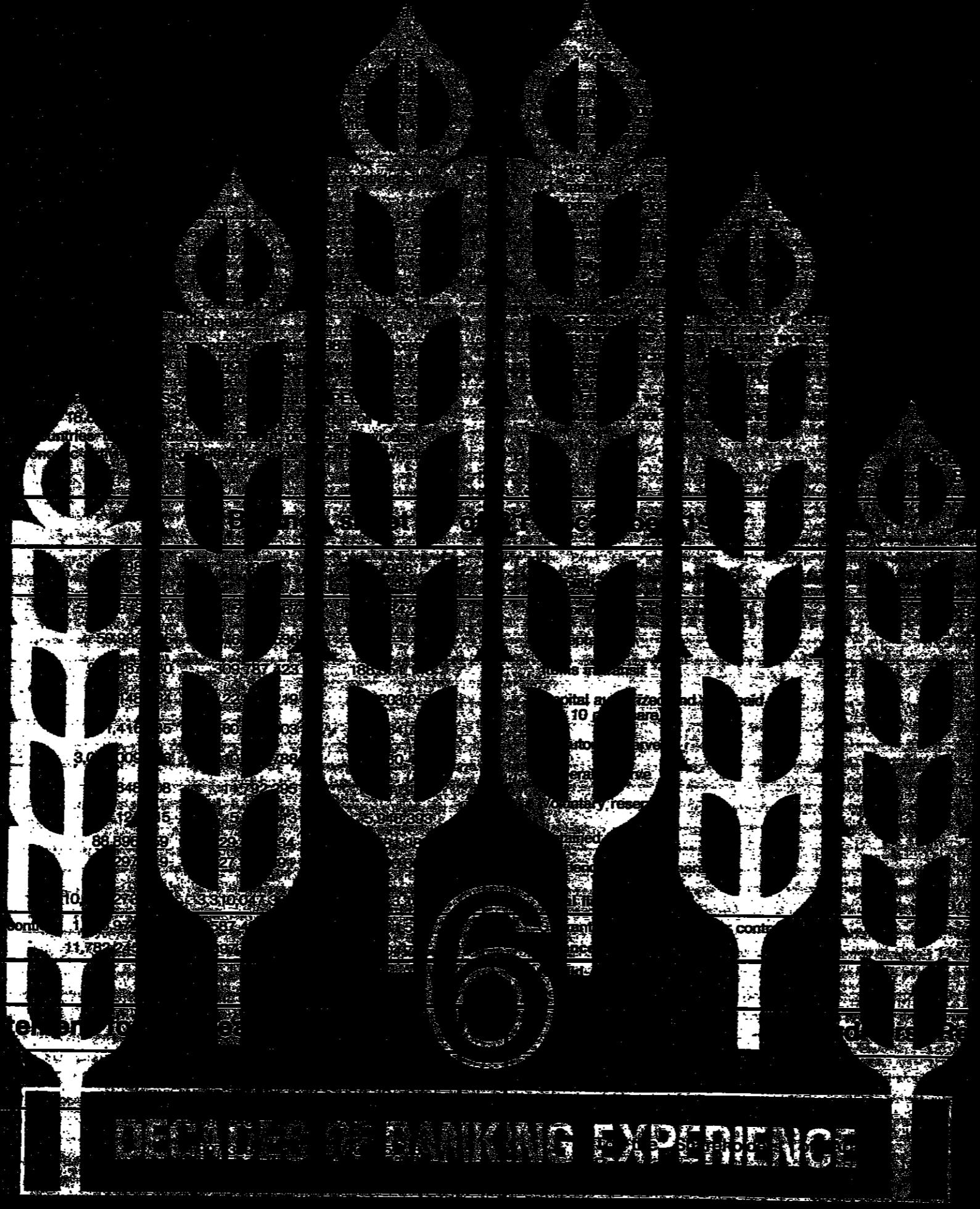
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BANK OF BANKING EXPERIENCE

BOARD OF DIRECTORS 58th Annual Report

Dear Shareholders,

We are pleased to present the 58th Annual Report of the Bank. It contains a brief economic survey.

World Economy

Economic growth in industrialized countries continued in 1987 at a lower rate than in previous years. On the other hand, the developing countries experienced a significant increase in their gross domestic product. This was mainly due to the decline in oil prices, which caused severe difficulties in the oil-producing countries.

The average annual Gross National Product of the industrialized countries is expected to have grown, in 1987, against 2.4% in 1986. Unemployment has increased, on average, to 7.5% in 1987, compared to 6.5% in 1986. Moreover, the inflation rate has risen to 8% in 1987, compared to the 6.5% rate expected. The lower inflation rate in comparison to the previous year. The significant decrease in oil prices affected the economy of the Arab world. Early in 1987, oil prices plunged below \$10 per barrel. Some Arab oil-producing countries were unable to cover current expenses and were forced to use their reserves. The oil prices clung back to approximately US\$ 18 per barrel after OPEC failed to reach a production ceiling of 16.5 million barrels per day. Export-oriented economic activities and growth in general were below what we had hoped for.

The continued decline in economic growth in industrialized countries, and the stagnation of commodity prices, affected the "Less Developed Countries" (LDCs). This was mainly reflected on the trade balance of these countries, especially the non-oil producing ones. Accordingly, the real export of LDCs augmented slightly.

The development of the balance among major industrialized nations (United States, Japan, West Germany, France) was also affected by negative factors in the United States economy. The United States trade deficit was approximately US\$ 17.1 billion. On the other hand, the trade surplus increased in Japan and West Germany. Moreover, the deficit in the United States budget reached US\$ 146 billion. This deficit was balanced mainly by foreign investments. To face difficulties in financing the deficit in the Government budget, the United States tightened their monetary policy, increasing the interest rates on the dollar. Consequently, the prices of stocks and bonds declined drastically on a worldwide basis. This unprecedented fall in stock prices was due to investors' fear of protectionism, especially in the United States. The direct losses in the stock market were approximately US\$ 19 billion. The indirect losses were predicted to be around US\$ 100 billion. Consequently, the Federal Reserve was forced to reduce liquidity and lower the interest rates. This caused the value of the dollar to decline even more against all major currencies. The dollar lost on average 10% of its value in 1987. At the same time, most oil-exporting countries

increased their oil production.

Oil companies in the Middle East

produced 1.3 million barrels per day in 1987.

Oil revenues increased by 10%

in 1987 compared to 1986.

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erating branches in the West Bank of Jordan and Gaza strip. Early in 1988, 2 new branches started operations; one in Amman and one in Cairo. Another branch will soon start operations in Italy.

The geographical distribution of the branches is depicted in the following schedule:

Area	Number of Branches 1987	Number of Branches 1988
Jordan	26	23
Arab Countries	23	25
Europe	11	5
U.S.A.	3	1
Far East	4	—

Affiliates and sister companies

Arab Bank Limited affiliates and sister companies are spread worldwide. This enables your Bank to perform multidimensional

activities, thus providing customers with a complete range of financial services.

Staff

In a world of rapid change, the skill and dedication of our staff are the bedrock of our achievements. In recent years, emphasis was given to high-level management training and to the specialization of banking facilities, such as credit, international banking operations and marketing. Training is continuously provided by our organization as well as by external academic and banking institutions. Our continued efforts, in updating the qualifications of all personnel, make for a constant improvement in customer services.

Automation

Your Bank is continuously utilizing modern concepts in office au-

tomation to provide excellent and faster services to its clients. This application of advanced automated systems and new techniques has also helped to reduce the running costs of the branches and General Management.

Your Bank now operates 15 computer centres throughout various countries. Additional Automatic Teller Machines (ATM) have been installed to upgrade facilities. Concurrently, progress is being made in providing to customers by way of home office banking systems.

Secure and economical communication between branches and General Management is provided by a leased telegraphic network system. The Bank is also a member of SWIFT; a network enabling communication between international banks concerning world finance. The connection to CHIPS and FED

WIRE, in New York, allows for automated clearing of cheques and transferring of funds.

Appropriation of Net Profit

The Board of Directors recommends the following appropriations:

- JD 16.2 million to the reserves
- JD 7.7 million to the Shareholders at JD 3.5 per share (35% of the par value of JD 10 payable as from 30 April 1988).
- JD 14,200 as remuneration to the Members of the Board of Directors.

In conclusion, the Board of Directors wishes to express its gratitude to all clients who entrusted their business to our Bank. A special note of thanks goes to the management and staff for their continued dedicated service to our customers and shareholders.

BRANCHES THROUGHOUT THE WORLD

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Tel. 3021650

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Nicosia
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Fax. 2257200
Dealing Room
Tel. 2257111
Nicosia
P.O. Box 5050
55, Ongaro Avenue
Tel. 2257111
Fax. 2257200

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Tel. 2257111
Fax. 2257200

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Fax. 2257200

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Tel. 21581
Fax. 21581
Dealing Room
Tel. 21581
Paphos
Arab Bank Cyprus
Cash Offices
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11 Kiro St
Shop No. 2
Tel. 21581

Limassol

21, George A. Street
Shop No. 6
Pafos-Panamas
72, 1st Floor
Limassol
21, 1st Floor, Arapha
Limassol
Tel. 21581

Paphos
24, Platia
Kato Paphos
Tel. 21581

Egypt
Cairo

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Tel. 646165 746215, 765534
Fax. 646165

Tel. 646165 746215, 765534

Dealing Room
Tel. 646165 746215

Cario
Heliopolis

P.O. Box 2352 Heliopolis Post

52 Sawfa Street

Tel. 2909576-9 & 651141

Tel. 549555

Tel. 646165 746215

Dealing Room
Tel. 646165 746215

France
Paris

B.P. 319-75365 Paris Cedex 08

26 Ave Des Champs Elysees

75008

Tel. 3593434

Fax. 42390978

Tel. 42820568

Tel. 42820568

International Exchange Unit
(Jabal Amman-Amman)

(Dealing in Money Changing)

P.O. Box 2711

Intercontinental Hotel

Tel. 644134-642321

Fax. 649106

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King Abdulla Square

Tel. 342251-24513

Tel. 51539 ARABNK JO

Jabal Amman
P.O. Box 2711

Abu Na'meh Building

near Zahran Police

Amman

Tel. 629479-629835

Tel. 23793 ARABJA JO

Cannes
45-71 La Croisette

06400 Cannes

Tel. 93320101

Tel. 42820568

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Athens

P.O. Box 30357

10 Stadiou Street

GR 10033 Athens

Tel. 3255401-10

Fax. 325519

Tel. 219392 ARAB GR

219593 ARAB GR

219532 ARAB GR

Dealing Room
Tel. 3255515

Tel. 221581 ARBX GR

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Tokyo Representative Office

11th Floor, 24 Mon Boulard

23-5, Nishi-Shimbashi 3-Chome

Minato-Ku, Tokyo 105

Tel. 578-9388

Fax. 578-9359

Tel. 463001 ARABNK JO

Karak

P.O. Box 94

Tel. 351253-4

Fax. 351255

Tel. 463001 ARABNK JO

Luweibdeh

P.O. Box 9105

Amman

Tel. 636673

Tel. 21654 ARABLU JO

Ma'an

P.O. Box 135

Tel. 41704-2

Fax. 41740

Tel. 21583 ARABJC JO

Jordan

Jordan Branches Center

P.O. Box 85045

Shmeisani-Amman

Tel. 670192 660115, 660131

Fax. 606793

Tel. 429092 ARABNK JO

=23683 ARABJC JO

Amman

P.O. Box 566

King Faisal Street

Tel. 633161-2

Fax. 637682

Tel. 631177-631180-117

Jordan Times

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In search for a real identity

HER Majesty Queen Noor's recent visit to the Royal Scientific Society's Building Research Centre and the review of the project to compile a Manual of Jordan's Architectural Heritage highlight an area of concern in Jordan which deserves greater attention from both the private and public sectors. One might ask why we raise the issue of old buildings at a time when we are faced with pressing issues of national development and political struggle. We do so because we feel there is a clear and relevant link between our aspirations in the political and socio-economic fields and our identity as individuals, communities and nations.

Architecture, along with language and religion, is one of the most visible and durable manifestations of social dynamics and cultural identity. Buildings and neighbourhoods reflect patterns of socio-economic organisation and legacies of cultural identity. They are a physical link between people and land, and they can embody ideas and traditions that are passed on from one generation to the next. Jordan is an ancient land, the product of civilisations that have clashed and cooperated with one another for at least the past 5,000 years.

While political entities in the Middle East have emerged and faded for most of those millennia, the grassroots culture and identity of the people of the area — including ourselves in Jordan — have remained durable and distinct. Buildings that date from the past are vital but threatened components of our collective cultural history, and it would be naive to think that we can ignore what history has bequeathed us as we feverishly erect new structures of assorted aesthetic and physical quality. One of the problems of conserving historic buildings in Jordan is the lack of focus by private and public groups, as many of the turn-of-the-century buildings of Jordan do not fall under the aegis of the Department of Antiquities or any other government agency, and there are no private societies specifically addressing the issue in a sustained manner. Therefore, Queen Noor's call for a new law to protect and revitalise our historic buildings strikes us as both timely and important, and we hope the government would find the time and the concern to respond to the challenge in an effective manner. For if we are not focused by a strong vision of where we came from, we are unlikely to formulate a coherent strategy for where we are going to in the future.

ARABIC PRESS EDITORIALS

Al Ra'i: Shultz is coming

IT has been officially announced in Washington that U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz will return to the Middle East area again on April 3, an announcement which received a reserved response by Damascus. Syria believes like all the Arab countries that as long as there was no change in America's policies, Washington can play no meaningful role in this region. The announcement has naturally raised a number of questions since Shultz's initiative, advocated during his previous tour, has been rebuffed by Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir who is bent on opposing the Arab World's call for a comprehensive and lasting settlement through an international conference. The Arabs who adhere to their stand have been supported by the Islamic nations at their foreign ministers meeting last week in Amman, and have been backed for their call for an international conference by Europe and most countries of the world. This constructive Arab stand conflicts with Israel's policies which call for partial solutions and unilateral treaties. We are surprised to see Shultz coming back unless he has something else up his sleeve. Some of us, indeed, believe that his tour could be aimed to undermine an Arab summit meeting due to be held in Algiers to find means for supporting the Palestinian people's uprising against Israeli rule. The tour could be a ploy to show that Israel is still approaching the path of peace, and the U.S. is here to make things move ahead.

Aldustour: Rallying Arabs, Muslims

KING Hussein's visits to Pakistan and Oman were within the framework of Jordan's diplomatic moves to rally more support for the Arab Nation and to bolster relations among Arabs and Muslims in the face of the common challenges. This stage requires unity of ranks among the Arab and Islamic countries so that they can have a real weight worldwide, and exercise their pressure wherever their national interests are concerned. The King's talks with the Pakistani and Omani leaders came as the Palestinian people in the occupied Arab land maintain their uprising against Israel's oppression and against the campaigns of terror and murder by Israeli troops. The Palestinians are in dire need of Arab and Islamic support and financial and moral backing for their cause to enable them to maintain their struggle for freedom. At the same time, the Iran-Iraq war is now entering a new ferocious phase requiring intensified Arab and Islamic efforts at all levels to bring the conflict to an end. Perhaps the positive outcome of the Islamic foreign ministers meeting in Amman can play as a catalyst, enabling Jordan and the rest of the Islamic countries to bolster their endeavours to end the conflict in the Gulf. By the end of last year, Jordan's diplomatic efforts yielded solidarity among Arabs whose leaders convened their summit meeting in Amman. Let us hope that Jordan's fresh efforts will help find solutions for pressing questions and problems facing the Arab and Islamic world.

Sawt Al Shaab: Jordan maintains the drive

JORDAN realised another success with the conclusion of an Islamic conference that achieved fruitful results and strengthened unity among Muslims. Jordan which hosted the Arab summit meeting in Amman last November was also successful in bringing the Arab leaders to an agreement and consensus on urgent and pressing issues. King Hussein, in his speech to the Islamic foreign ministers meeting last week underlined the need for continued efforts to end all disputes among Muslims, and to pave the way for a unified and collective Islamic action. He urged the ministers to make it their task to pool the efforts of their countries to end the Gulf war and to close the doors in the face of all greedy nations and those trying to tamper with the stability and security of the Islamic region and the Islamic rights and interests. To achieve this goal, adherence to basic and firm principles, and flexibility in action are required. The King voiced the Arab World's desire to reach peace in the Middle East based on a total Israeli withdrawal from Arab lands and through an international conference, and he has demanded an end to the Gulf war in implementation of U.N. Security Council Resolution 598.

Are we heading towards a hot summer?

By Waleed Sadi

THE Palestinian uprising in the West Bank and Gaza Strip could turn into a nightmare for the Israeli military strategist should the showdown between the populace of the occupied Arab territories and the Israeli occupying forces assume an armed conflict. This scenario is a real one inspite of the apparent respite in the uprising in view of what some observers term as a "fatigue" among the Palestinians who have been waging their "controlled" struggle for over four months. I believe it would be more sane and wise to construe any ensuing slowness or tapering off in the magnitude and scale of the Palestinian revolt as a mere prelude to the real storm which is clearly in the offing. With the Shultz peace plan in deep freeze pending the receipt of the replies of the parties concerned, time is fast ticking away and approaching the election dates for the U.S. and Israeli elections. The fast evaporating modicum of faith in the ability of the U.S. to animate its peace plan would surely reignite and reactivate the motivation and forces that lie behind the Palestinian uprising soon enough and make it resurface with ever more vigour and determination. Should this happen as expected, it would mean that a greater number of Israeli troops would become more pinned down by the escalating Palestinian revolt. And since it is no longer far-fetched to speculate that such an escalation could assume a bloodier manifestation, the Israeli armed forces could all of a sudden find themselves bogged down in a quagmire from which they may not be able to extricate themselves with impunity without raising the overall military risk factor for its strategic posture. Is it not tempting for Arab armies to contemplate launching a well-coordinated blitzkrieg with a view to liberate their occupied

territories when the Israeli army becomes ever more tied up in a continuous civil strife or an internal armed conflict?

The fact that Israel's military edge over the surrounding Arab armies is fast eroding would surely heighten the risk of a new conflagration engulfing most of the Middle East region. There is already a quantitative military balance between the Arab armies directly concerned with the Arab-Israeli conflict and the time factor is working in favour of attaining a qualitative balance between them as well. It is true Israel enjoys a nuclear monopoly and may resort to the deployment of its nuclear arsenal should its very existence become threatened, but it is very doubtful that the Israeli military strategist envisage the use of nuclear weapons if the Arab military objective is limited to the liberation of the territories occupied by Israel in the 1967 war.

One also has to reckon with the implications of the epoch of rocketry and missiles which has dawned on the Middle East region. With an increasing number of Arab countries possessing medium range missiles capable of reaching all Israeli targets, the devastating effect of such an added muscle in the Arab arsenal could raise the stakes for Israel should worse come to worst. The invincibility of Israel is fast becoming shattered by the introduction of new classes of weaponry in the region at an unprecedented rate. All such developments should, one would hope, lead the Israeli leaders to the conclusion that Israel's ultimate security and survival does not lie in military might. Rather, its national security and existence emanate from arriving at an honourable and just peace agreement with the Arab parties at the soonest possible time.

Yet visionary leadership in Israel is in short supply at a time and juncture in history when such leadership is most urgently needed. The crippling divisiveness in the Israeli body politic is also rendering the sailing of Israeli decision-making process almost rudderless and aimless. Even the formulation of an Israeli reply to the Shultz peace initiative appears to be more geared to national elections in Israel than to the merits or demerits of the said initiative. There are grounds to substantiate the proposition that both Likud and Labour are playing local politics with the U.S. plan and each party is attempting to capitalise on the peace process or the lack of it to satisfy their respective lust for power and control. How else can one explain the absence of real substantive differences between the two principal Israeli political parties on the terms and conditions of any acceptable peace agreement with the concerned Arab parties? Clearly it has not escaped the Arab mind that Israel is impatiently waiting for and anticipating a flat Arab rejection of the Shultz peace formula in order to pass the blame for its demise on the traditional and customary source of rejection. Israel is masterful in cashing in on Arab rejections even when they are legitimate.

Meanwhile the military landscape in the Middle East spells danger for all sides. It will therefore be foolhardy to interpret any respite in the Palestinian insurrection as a prelude to restoration of tranquillity and viable status quo in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. It will also be short sighted not to view the continuation of tension in the West Bank and Gaza Strip as an enticing invitation for a greater conflagration that could engulf the whole region.

Short of options?

By William Pfaff

PARIS — One could say of Israel and the Palestinians what Conor Cruise O'Brien, the Irish writer and politician, has said of South Africa:

- To maintain the status quo is impossible;
- Reforms acceptable to both sides are impossible;
- And revolution is impossible.

Starting with that, what is the point of the Shultz peace plan?

The United States cannot deliver peace and Arab agreement to Israel, nor can it deliver Israel and peace to the Palestinians. Only Israel, the Arab governments and the Palestinians, in and out of the Palestine Liberation Organisation, can make peace. The United States has substantial power to press all three toward political negotiations and a settlement, but this power has limits.

Moreover, divisions within the Palestinian and Arab camps are not deep and cruel than those inside Israeli society. Even a settlement that obtained general approval from the Arab principals could be destroyed by the minority or factions that opposed it. One reason Israel fears a settlement is that they find it hard to believe they could trust it.

It presumes that the American Jewish community will give unquestioned support to Israel no matter what Israel's policies, and that American Jews can and will persuade Congress and the U.S. government to do the same. Both assumptions are very likely mistaken. There is an element of moral blackmail in this position that could produce a backlash.

This U.S.-Israeli disagreement over the Shultz plan, and behind it the disagreement over Israel's annexation of the occupied territories, suggest that a fundamental change is approaching in the warm yet peculiar relationship that has existed between the two countries for 40 years. The alliance reached its peak during



It thinks Israel has a positive option. It holds that Israel could expel the Palestinians while expanding the borders of an all-Jewish Israel, and thereby become secure.

It also appears to believe that it could do this without losing America's economic subsidy of Israel. It assumes that Israel can safely defy majority American opinion, which clearly is behind the Shultz plan and which favours a generous solution to the Palestinian problem.

It presumes that the American Jewish community will give unquestioned support to Israel no matter what Israel's policies, and that American Jews can and will persuade Congress and the U.S. government to do the same. Both assumptions are very likely mistaken. There is an element of moral blackmail in this position that could produce a backlash.

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the first Reagan term, when America supported Israel's invasion of Lebanon, and the Israeli economy was virtually annexed to America's.

Lebanese adventures went badly for Israel and the United States, and the Pollard spy case and Israel's involvement in the Iran-contra scandal affected both American official and popular attitudes toward Israel.

Under Reagan, and the Begin and Shamir governments in Israel, a change had developed in the political alignments and quality of the U.S.-Israeli relationship. Its dynamic became that of an alliance of American conservatives, possessing an activist anti-communist and anti-radical policy agenda, with expansionists.

The old alliance, lasting from 1948 through the 1970s, had at first associated American liberals with a liberal (indeed socialist) Israel, a relationship criticised by American conservatives but which subsequently was confirmed by widening American sympathy for a beleaguered democracy understood to want only to be left in peace by its Arab neighbours.

The change in the quality of the alliance in the 1980s reflected

changes in the nature of the two societies themselves, as well as an altered international situation, notably the rise of terrorism. It became an active partnership to suppress terrorism and Arab radicalism, with the Israeli intelligence services making the indispensable contribution.

Israel's conservatives found American support for their programme to eject the PLO from Lebanon and to turn Lebanon into an Israeli satellite, and they expected U.S. acquiescence in Israel's effective annexation of Gaza and the West Bank territories occupied in the 1967 war.

No one said much about this change in the alliance as it took place. Yet it was an important change, making the relationship much more partisan and politically divisive — potentially much more controversial. American public opinion had easily ratified the original alliance, which guaranteed that Israel would survive and prosper. Today's crisis follows from the fact that Americans are belatedly being asked, but refusing, to ratify the new alliance, which says that Israel will expand — International Herald Tribune.

Washington 'think tank' envisions Mideast without physical barriers

The following article is reprinted from the Israeli newspaper, *The Jerusalem Post*.

By Wolf Blitzer

WASHINGTON — A bipartisan panel of influential Middle East specialists, including several former U.S. officials, has called for creative new thinking in trying to resolve the Arab-Israeli conflict.

"We envision a future in which borders would not be physical barriers," the new Brookings Institution study says. "Citizens of one political entity could live safely, and with recognised rights, elsewhere in the region; and economic transactions and movement of individuals would be subject to few restrictions."

The study, entitled "Toward Arab-Israeli Peace: Report of a Study Group," suggests that a regional economic plan with international support should complement such a political settlement and help to ensure its viability."

In late 1975, the Brookings Institution, a Washington "think tank," released its first study on the Arab-Israeli conflict. It called on Israel to withdraw to the pre-1967 lines "with only such modifications as are mutually accepted." It also recognised Palestinian "self-determination, subject to Palestinian acceptance of the sovereignty and integrity of Israel within agreed boundaries."

Because several members of that panel later emerged as key foreign policy officials in the Carter administration, it was widely seen as having had a significant influence on the shaping of U.S.

policy under Carter.

For nearly a year, a new group of American specialists, representing a relatively wide range of opinion, has met in Washington to draft this second report, which organisers hope could serve as a useful guide to the next U.S. administration.

The report, which is seen as being considerably less controversial than its predecessor, rejects any imposed settlement. "We want to emphasise that details of an Arab-Israeli peace settlement should not be dictated by the U.S. or any other outside party."

Coordinating the effort was William Quandt, a senior fellow at Brookings who served as a Middle East staffer on the National Security Council under Carter. Quandt was also a member of the original Brookings report.

The co-chairmen of the new report were former U.S. Ambassador to Israel Samuel Lewis and former U.S. Ambassador to Egypt, Hermann Eilts. Other members of the group included former U.S. officials Alfred Atherton, Harold Saunders and Robert Neumann. Also signing the report was former U.S. senator Charles Mathias of Maryland.

There were both American Arabs as well as American Jews involved in the study.

This report is intended to enrich the discussion of how the U.S. can best promote Arab-Israeli peace negotiations," said Brookings President Bruce MacLaury. It does not offer blueprint. It does suggest how to get the negotiating process underway and puts forward principles that should inform the efforts of

any American president."

The group reached broad agreement in six basic areas. The following are excerpts from the report's summary:

- 1. Urgency. Arab-Israeli peacemaking should be a high priority for any American administration. Failure to break the long-standing deadlock in the peace process endangers American national interests.

- 2. New Realities. It will not suffice for a newly elected president simply to invoke the diplomatic formulas of the past. Previous initiatives contain some useful building blocks, but a serious policy cannot be developed simply by stringing these formulations together. New realities in the region require new approaches and concepts.

- 3. The American role. We would like to see a continuous, high-level commitment of American resources to the Arab-Israeli peace process.

- 4. An International Framework for Negotiations. Convening an international conference on the Arab-Israeli conflict is the most widely supported approach to negotiations.

- 5. Transitional Steps. Within these guidelines, we believe that some form of transitional arrangements must be part of the next phase of Arab-Israeli peacemaking.

- 6. Ceasing all forms of violence; ending the state of belligerency and economic and diplomatic boycott between Israel and its Arab neighbours;

- 7. Minimising the Israeli military presence in populated areas of the West Bank and Gaza;

- 8. Placing substantial authority in the hands of West Bank and Gaza Palestinians, especially with respect to land, water, economic activity, and political organisation;

- 9. Halting new Israeli settlements and land expropriation in the occupied territories."

nounce the use of force.

"S. Basic Principles for Arab-Israeli Peace. We believe the U.S. should formulate a strategy for promoting Arab-Israeli peace based on the following points:

- In order to achieve broad Arab-Israeli peace, both Israel and the Palestinians must be directly involved.

- A recognition that the area defined as the former mandate of Palestine west of the Jordan River is home to both peoples is essential to a reconciliation between Israelis and Palestinians.

- Israelis and Palestinians will have to work closely with the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, a majority of whose citizens are Palestinians, in shaping a peace agreement.

- Under international sponsorship, Israel and Syria should be encouraged to negotiate peace based on the principles of U.N. Resolution 242.

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- Halting new Israeli settlements and land expropriation in the occupied territories."

Charges against young Nasser evoke memories of his father

By Nejla Sammakia
The Associated Press

CAIRO, Egypt — Memories of Gamal Abdul Nasser, once adored by Egyptians, then widely criticised after his death, are being revived by a legal battle facing his son.

Khaled Abdul Nasser is charged with anti-American and anti-Israeli terrorism.

Should he choose to end his self-imposed exile in Yugoslavia and face trial, as he indicates he will, Khaled's supporters could be many. They are

Analysts expect non-OPEC oil exporters to reduce world glut

NEW YORK (R) — Non-OPEC oil producers, which the group says are pumping more than 500,000 extra barrels a day into world markets, might be persuaded to reduce output by about five per cent if OPEC did likewise, according to U.S. analysts.

Tukey said both the 13-nation Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) and the non-OPEC producers must cut back production over a sustained period if world oil prices were to stabilise near OPEC's \$18 a barrel target price.

A group of seven non-OPEC producers — Egypt, Oman, China, Mexico, Malaysia, Angola and Colombia — are expected to announce steps soon to help boost oil prices, an Arab oil industry official told Reuters last week.

OPEC, meanwhile, has called a price committee meeting for the first week of April to examine weak world oil prices.

Crude prices see-sawed by as much as \$1 a barrel last week, with West Texas Intermediate, the U.S. benchmark grade, ending firmer at \$17.03 a barrel Friday in anticipation of the OPEC price committee meeting, traders and analysts said.

They thought prices would probably remain volatile until the OPEC panel met.

British Brent crude, another benchmark, ended almost unchanged on the week at \$15.45 for April delivery. That was \$1.45 up on the beginning of March.

OPEC countries are now producing at or under their self-imposed ceiling of 15.06 million barrels per day, excluding Iraq, according to OPEC President Rilwan Lukman of Nigeria.

Analysts say OPEC has resisted calling an emergency meeting of oil ministers, fearing that

any production cuts on the group's part would be quickly made up by non-OPEC producers eager to increase sales.

Lukman blames non-OPEC producers

But analysts say non-OPEC producers are likely to resist requests for voluntary production cuts because oil is the primary source of revenue for many.

"At today's prices, I can't picture non-OPEC producers wanting to lose market share," said Sarah Emerson, vice-president of U.S.-based Energy Security Analysis Inc. "However, if the price of oil fell to \$12 or \$13, then they might cut back."

She said non-OPEC producers might simply announce a downward revision in future output growth.

Non-OPEC production in the first quarter of 1988 will come to 25.51 million barrels per day, up 170,000 barrels per day from last year's levels, according to Data Resources Inc. Total world oil production averaged about 55.34 million barrels per day in 1987, according to the U.S. Department of Energy.

William Hermann, chief economist of U.S.-based Chevron Corp., estimated aggregate production for the group of seven non-OPEC producers in 1988 will total about 7.65 million barrels per day.

He said one plan rumoured to be under consideration was a five per cent cut in output by the seven, which would remove about 382,500 barrels per day from the oil market.

"Fundamentally, a five per cent decrease in output by these seven non-OPEC nations is a step in the right direction," he said. "If the non-OPEC production cutbacks hold over time, then OPEC members might be more inclined to stick to their quotas."

Mehdi Varzi, an oil analyst with Kleinwort Grieveson in London, said another possible plan to support prices would have both OPEC and non-OPEC producers trim production by about five per cent.

Varzi estimated such a cutback would eliminate about 1.1 million

barrels per day from the world oil market.

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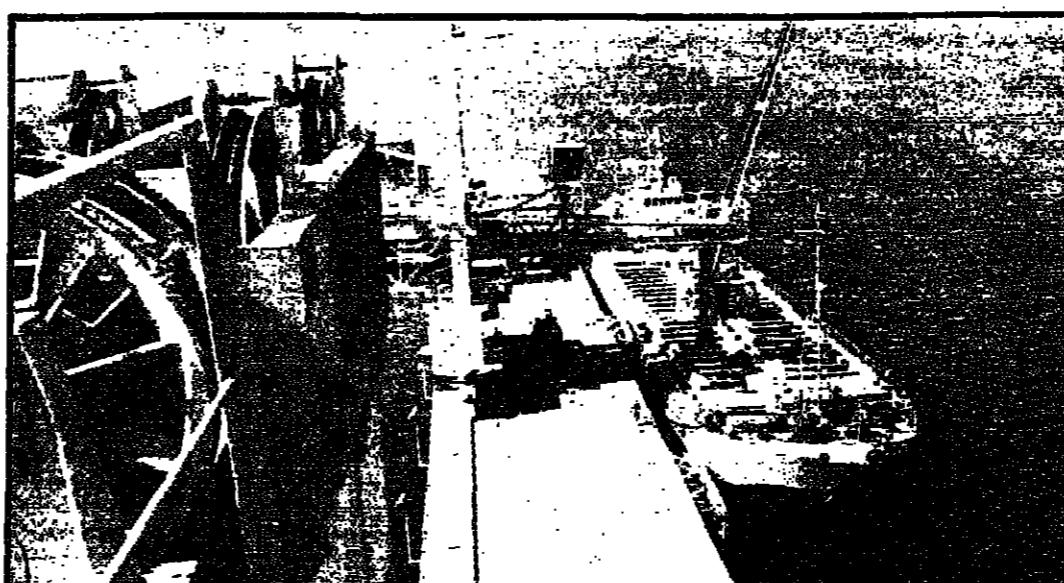
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India likely to maintain high imports of Jordanian phosphate and potash



A ship at Aqaba port being loaded with Jordanian phosphate (File photo)

By P.V. Vivekanand
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — India is expected to sustain the same value of imports from Jordan in 1988 as in 1987, and any increase will depend on demand within India subject to completion of new phosphate processing plants.

The total volume of Indian purchases of Jordanian products — rock phosphate and muriate of potash — amounted to about \$80 million in 1987, according to available statistics.

New Delhi has already decided to buy the same quantity — 1.05 million tonnes of rock phosphate and 400,000 tonnes of muriate of potash — this year, but the total value may vary in line with fluctuations in international prices.

Most of India's phosphate and fertiliser plants are attuned to Jordanian phosphates and potash, including a new facility which is nearing completion.

Some of the rest are suitable to process Moroccan phosphates

while others are compatible with East European products.

"At this stage, I cannot say whether we will increase the volume of imports from Jordan this year," said A.K. Gandhi, resident manager in Amman of an office of the Indian state-owned Metals and Minerals Trading Corporation (MMTC). "Everything depends on domestic demand... whether the new plant will depend entirely on Jordanian phosphates..."

MMTC is the sole agency responsible for imports of metals and minerals into India. In turn, it seeks to increase the volume of Indian exports to the respective countries.

In fact, India is the largest importer of Jordanian products, and has been so for many years. Reports in the Indian media indicate that on several occasions India offered to increase its imports from Jordan by almost 50 per cent provided Jordanian imports from India are raised by 20 to 30 per cent.

According to Gandhi, who set up the MMTC office in Amman six months ago, Jordan's imports from India amounted to about \$3.5 million in 1987.

"We are trying to identify specific fields where Jordan could increase its purchase of Indian products, in the public as well as private sectors," he said.

This view appears to be shared by the Jordanian government since the Jordan Phosphate Mines Company has extended its own office facilities to the MMTC resident manager.

It also hints at near bankruptcy in many economies. "In the majority of our countries the question is not that of a liquidity crisis but of solvency."

Many countries already face debt repayment bills exceeding what they earn from exports.

Without a suitable remedy, it envisages Africa's foreign debt will jump more than 50 per cent by 1995 and triple to \$600 billion by the year 2000.

By then African countries, which now spend on average over 40 per cent of export income repaying their debt, will need to pour nearly three-quarters of such earnings into debt servicing.

"The excruciating debt service burden is depriving our economies of resources needed not only for development but also in many countries for the survival of our peoples," it warns.

According to Gandhi, there is a multitude of Indian products for Jordan to choose from. He cited tea, coffee, spices, cashew nuts, engineering and chemical products, vegetable oil, tobacco products, jute products, fish products, medicine, automobile spare parts, rice etc. as Indian products that enjoy good potential in the Jordanian market.

Ironically, market sources say, India indeed has the flexibility to increase its imports from Jordan but appears to be waiting for reciprocal moves from Amman before doing so.

A deal that was agreed upon in 1987 under which India was to supply 50,000 tonnes of wheat to Jordan was called off when India found itself faced with a severe drought which could affect Indian wheat products for some years to come.

AMMAN FINANCIAL MARKET

Activity on the Amman Financial Market for Sunday March 27, 1988.

	Number	Volume	Contracts
Regular market:	178,485	JD 277,037	228
Top three companies:			
National Steel Ind.	24,967	JD 71,383	11
Intermediate Petrochemical	24,568	JD 35,400	42
Arab Bank	290	JD 32,970	9
Parallel market:	2,867	JD 1,471	—
Development bonds:	1,250	JD 13,588	—
Treasury bills & bonds:	—	—	—

New airliners seen limiting Gulf Arab role in world aviation

BAHRAIN (R) — New airliners able to carry more people over longer distances threaten a role played by the Gulf states as an East-West staging post.

The latest Boeing 747-400S, with a range of 13,140 kilometres, will be able to do without costly re-fuelling stops in the Gulf on routes between Europe and East Asia.

Aviation industry officials say many carriers which now operate flights that stop over in the Gulf, an area generally supplied with international airports, will cease or cut down on services to the area.

"The area as a whole will see a reduction in total capacity of services deployed to and from the Gulf," Gulf Air marketing vice-president Hamed Al Medfa said.

"The market here is small and ultimately foreign carriers will yield to competitive pressure for more direct flights on the main trunk routes between Europe and the Far East," he noted.

Three major carriers — Swissair, Singapore Airlines and Japan Airlines — have already announced plans to pull out of Bahrain, once a booming transit point in the region.

"Our decision was based on plans to meet commercial demand for more long-haul direct flights between East and West," Wong Tong Seng, Singapore's Middle East general manager, told Reuters.

Some airlines which have placed orders for new long-range aircraft say they will continue to stop in the Gulf, primarily to pick up and deliver foreign workers, mostly Asians.

Economic recession as a result of weak oil prices has, however, reduced the number of Asian workers.

"When we begin operating the new 747-400S in April 1989, they will probably overfly Bahrain," said Quantas Airways Middle East Manager Malcolm Genge.

But he said traffic between Australia and the Middle East was growing and if that continued "we will fly the new aircraft through Bahrain as well."

With 12 international airports in the Gulf and two more due to open in the coming decade, competition for airline business is fierce.

Dubai is the Gulf's main transit

Cabinet grants incentives to projects

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Cabinet has decided to consider a number of projects as developmental, allowing them to enjoy exemptions from taxes and privileges provided for by a law for encouraging investments.

Among those projects were agricultural schemes initiated by Jordanian companies on lands in the south of the country leased from the state and a company which will produce ice.

The Cabinet also decided to cancel a previous decision giving exemptions and privileges to the Mohammad Kurdi dairy plant and a company for producing fodder because they failed to carry out the projects within three years from the date they were given the exemptions in accordance with the agreement.



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Joe S. is fine

Graf beats Evert to win Florida tennis title

KEY BISCAYNE, Florida (R) — Top-seed Steffi Graf kept her concentration in the 46-degree celcius (120 F.) outside heat Saturday to win her second straight International Players Championships title with a 6-4, 6-4 win over second seed Chris Evert.

Graf, who collected \$12,500 for the victory, has not lost a set to Evert in their last six meetings.

The 33-year-old Evert, who won her first six career meetings against Graf, lost to the West German world number one in the final here last year. The powerful 18-year-old also defeated Evert in the Australian Open final in January.

Graf maintained her concentration when it appeared that Evert, ranked third in the world, was about to rally and force a third set.

The top seed became unnerved by a questionable line call in the fifth game of the second set as she was on the verge of taking control of the match. Evert had fought off two break points in the game, which could have given Graf a 4-1 lead.

On the third deuce, Evert hit a cross-court backhand winner that Graf thought was out. Evert went on to hold her serve for 2-3 and broke Graf in the next game for 3-3.

The American had two break points in the eighth game with a chance to take a 5-3 lead. Graf, however, fought off both points, one with an impressive overhead winner, to level the set again.

Graf then came up with a crucial service break in the ninth game on her fifth break point of the set when Evert netted a drop shot and the West German served out the match on a service winner.

"It was always going back and forth," Graf said. "In the second set at 3-1 the bad call really disturbed me. I was getting mad at it. I didn't concentrate for two games, then I said I have to get back into it. That helped me play better," she said.

Graf had taken an early 3-1 lead in the first set when Evert double faulted to lose her serve. The second seed fought off a



Steffi Graf

break point in the fifth game with an ace and broke back for 4-4 in the eighth game, only to lose her serve in the ninth and watch Graf serve out the set.

Evert, the winner here in 1986, compared this year's one hour 40 minute battle to Graf's 58-minute 6-1, 6-2 1987 rout.

"I'm closing the gap a little bit. I'm happy with my play this week," Evert said.

"There were a couple of key points in both sets that she played better on. I got my chances, but I just couldn't pull it out of the bag," Evert said.

The 33-year-old Evert, who

Egyptian parliamentarians to discuss soccer disaster

CAIRO (R) — An Egyptian parliamentary committee will hold a special session next week to discuss a blow to national pride — elimination from the Africa Nations Soccer Cup.

The committee on sports and youth affairs is due to meet next Sunday to discuss ways of avoiding a repeat of Egypt's poor performance.

One fan said in a letter to Al-Ahram newspaper Sunday that a minute's national mourning should be observed, and another suggested the team and football federation should be jailed as "a security threat to soccer."

Passions have not cooled in the week since Egypt drew 0-0 with Nigeria in Rabat and were knocked out of Africa's premier soccer competition.

It was the first time defending champions Egypt had been eliminated in the first round. The football federation will meet Monday amid continuing calls for the sacking of British coach Mike Smith.

Coast and moved into a semi-final clash with Nigeria on the semi-final of a post-tournament draw.

Morocco, humbled by Cameroon in Wednesday's semi-final, had opened the scoring about 20 minutes into the second half when newcomer Hassan Nader scored with a header from a cross after a long run down the left by Mourad Jabrane.

But the host nation failed to impress in the unimpressive encounter which was witnessed by a party 15,000 in Casablanca's Mohamed V Stadium.

Not much was at stake, but some of the young Moroccan players used the match as an opportunity to stake a claim for a regular first team place.

Most of the Moroccan profes-

Duke, Oklahoma reach NCAA basketball final four

EAST RUTHERFORD, New Jersey (R) — The Duke Blue Devils rallied Saturday to upset Temple, the top-ranked college basketball team in the country, 63-53 and earned a berth among the NCAA final four in Kansas City next weekend.

Oklahoma soundly defeated Villanova 78-59 in the Southeast regional final of the National Collegiate Athletic Association tournament to take their place in the coveted final four.

A tenacious Oklahoma defense held the Wildcats to just 21 second half points and kept them scoreless for a stretch of over five minutes.

Villanova led 38-31 at the half, but the Sooners reeled off 11 straight points midway thru the second half and continued to shut down the Wildcat scorers.

The Temple Owls led by as much as 10 points in the first half of the East Regional final before Duke closed the gap to 28-25 at the break.

Duke, led by Kevin Strickland's game-high 21 points and Danny Ferry's 20, completely took control of the game early in the second half and never looked back.

The tournament began on March 17 with 64 teams. The last two berths in the final four will be decided Sunday.

NCAA BASKETBALL RESULTS

NEW YORK (R) — Results of regional finals in the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) basketball tournament Saturday:

East:

Duke	63	Temple	53
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Oklahoma	76	Villanova	59
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Napoli, Milan abridge gap as Roma defeats Inter

ROME (R) — The race for the Italian Soccer League title narrowed to Diego Maradona's Napoli and AC Milan Sunday when third-placed Roma went down 2-0 to Internazionale.

Both leading teams were held to goalless draws, champions Napoli at Torino and Milan at relegation-threatened Avellino, leaving Napoli four points clear of Milan on 39.

Roma's title hopes had been revived by four victories in succession but their defeat left them six points adrift of Napoli with six matches to go and two down on AC Milan.

Inter, struggling back from the doldrums and in search of a place in Europe next season, were 3-0 up after 31 minutes with a penalty from veteran striker Alessandro Altobelli and goals from Giuseppe Bergomi and Massimo Ciocci.

A fighting Roma had the deficit down to a single goal by half time before man-of-the-match Ciocci hit home Internazionale's fourth and his second with a masterly shot from way out on the right in the 69th minute.

Giuseppe Giannini scored for Roma in the 37th from a penalty awarded for hand ball after an inter player mistakenly picked up the ball in the area, thinking play had been stopped.

He was also involved in Roma's second, directing a free kick into the area where Bergomi had the misfortune of putting the ball into his own net.

Milan had travelled to second-bottom Avellino with their sights set on full points, while Napoli faced a tougher task against the team which beat them in the quarter-finals of the Italian Cup three weeks ago.

But on a day which brought not a single change in the League table, both teams had to be content with a draw.

Milan midfielder Angelo Colombo had a clear chance to score in each half but was thwarted both times by Avellino keeper in the air.



Diego Maradona

Nicola Di Leo.

At Torino, Austrian Anton Polster almost put the home side ahead early in the first half but headed just wide.

Sampdoria, 1-0 winners at home to Fiorentina, stayed four nine points behind Napoli with inter fifth and Torino sixth.

Fiorentina's Swedish striker Glenn Hysen had a goal disallowed in the first half after he clashed with a Sampdoria player in the air.

Algeria wins 3rd place in Africa Cup

CASABLANCA (R) — Algeria took the third place consolation prize in the Africa Nations Cup soccer tournament after beating Morocco 4-3 in a penalty shoot-out after a 1-1 draw Saturday.

Algeria took the game into extra time with a goal in the dying minutes from star midfielder Lekhdar Belloumi, who headed home from close range, at the far post after some hesitation by the substitute Moroccan goalkeeper in coming out to challenge.

It gave the North African side a measure of revenge for a 1-0 defeat by Morocco earlier in the competition. But Algeria take third place without having won a single game in the two week tournament.

In the Group A qualifying matches, apart from losing to the host nation, they only managed to draw with both Zaire and Ivory Coast and

rejoined to their clubs in Europe immediately after the semi-final defeat.

Newcomer Mustapha Kiddi and goalscorer Nader combined well up front although Nader missed an easy chance midway through the first half.

Algeria had had the best of things early on. They split the Moroccan defence after 15 minutes with sharp passing before Ali Bouafia had a shot well-saved by Morocco's substitute keeper Khalil Azmi.

Morocco dominated the second half, bringing the crowd alive, after only 10 minutes when Maataoui Tijani hit the cross bar with a strong long-range volley.

Extra-time failed to separate the North African rivals.

Most of the Moroccan profes-

A period of test for baseball players

NEW YORK (AP) — The problem is clear. Hitters are getting too far ahead of pitchers.

The solution is strange. Shrink the strike zone in the rulebook, call higher strikes in the games.

If it sounds confusing, it is. No one is sure what the effect will be, not even the umpires, who are trying to enforce the change in spring training.

"It's second nature to us what a strike is," said Joe Brinkman, an American League umpire for 16 seasons. "Now, we'll have to constantly think about it."

Raising the actual strike zone by a few inches (centimetres) could be the biggest batter-pitch adjustment in baseball since the mound was lowered after 1968.

Here's what's happening:

The old rule defined the strike zone as between the batter's armpits and the top of his knees.

But in reality, anything above the belt was a ball, particularly in the low-ball National League.

The new rule brings back the letter-high strike. The upper limit will be the midpoint between the top of the shoulders and the top of the uniform pants; the lower limit remains at the knees.

Technically, that is smaller than before. But the idea is that umpires will call those high strikes.

Hitters, who have seen home run totals go up to record rates, are not thrilled at seeing the strike zone go up, too.

"All our lives we've been taught to lay off that high pitch. It's a ball," Wade Boggs carpéd.

"Now, do we have to swing at it?"

This season, Boggs and other batters do.

One-year test

The players' union and owners have agreed to the change for a

one-year test period. After the season, both sides will review the results. Yet even if players don't want to continue the alterations, management can implement them in 1989.

Pitchers are excited about the strike zone becoming a twilight zone up top. Their strikeouts are at an all-time high, but they are giving up runs at an alarming pace.

Last year, 62 pitchers in the American League had earned run averages of over 6.00. Baltimore and Cleveland became the first AL teams with eras over 5.00 since 1956.

The National League, where scoring is about a half-run less because there is no designated hitter, is equally porous.

With higher strikes, those imbalanced numbers could come down.

"I heard about it in the offseason and I like it," said Dwight Gooden, who has always enjoyed success with rising, chest-high fastballs. "So I thought this spring that if I got ahead in the count, I'd go up there but I haven't noticed any difference."

That's because sometimes there isn't any.

"I have not changed my strike zone at all," said Bruce Froemming, an NL umpire for 18 years. "I've always been accused of having a high strike zone, but the League felt, as a group, we weren't calling the higher strike."

Brinkman's zone has expanded.

"I'm calling it about a ball higher," he said. "It doesn't sound like much, but it is. This will be a major adjustment."

"The first game I had behind the plate this spring, I called about seven or eight strikes that I would've called balls last year," Brinkman said. "There were ab-

bulky outside protectors, which prevented them from tucking behind catchers. The leagues now use the same form-fitting inside protectors and all umpires get the same view.

That doesn't mean everyone has the same view of the new strike zone.

Terry Kennedy, an all-star catcher in both leagues, is caught in the middle. He wants more strikes for his pitchers, fewer strikes as a hitter.

And he doesn't like what he sees from either side.

"Why don't they just leave it alone?" Kennedy said. "Maybe they think pitching is too thin. But this is very unrealistic and not worth doing."

"Don't they have more important things in baseball to worry about instead of stupid rule changes?" he said. "Why don't they worry about the state of owner-player relations instead of trying to change the strike zone?"

India beats N. Zealand, reaches Sharjah Cup finals

SHARJAH, United Arab Emirates (AP) — India defeated New Zealand by 73 runs Sunday to enter the finals of the Sharjah Cup tournament.

India's Mohinder Amarnath, who cracked an unbeaten 102 and helped India to a massive total of 267 for 6, was declared man of the match.

India beat Sri Lanka Friday in the opening match of the three-way tournament.

The Indians lost the toss for the second time in the tournament and New Zealand put them in to bat.

K. Srikkanth was bowled by W. Watson on the eighth ball of the match and W.V. Raman was caught by M. Greatbatch off Richard Hadlee.

The New Zealanders' opening pace attack overwhelmed the Indians for the first 10 overs.

Hadlee, Watson and D. Morrison bowled brilliantly, moving the ball dangerously off the pitch. But Amarnath and N. Sidhu slowly settled down and began to score.

Peanuts



Mutt'n' Jeff



Andy Capp



JUMBLE THAT SCRABLED WORD GAME by Henri Arnold and Bob Lee

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

ORRGI

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer as suggested by the above cartoon.

NEALK

THUGOR

<p

Banks refuse to open

Pro-Noriega troops crack down on strike

PANAMA CITY (AP) — Troops loyal to General Manuel Antonio Noriega raided Panama City's port area, seized control of flour mills and shut down a union hall while the army threatened to use force to reopen the nation's banks.

Banks ignored the threats Saturday, and dockworkers stayed away from work as part of a general strike called by opposition leaders trying to force Noriega from power.

Noriega announced Friday that soldiers would seize flour from the nation's mills, apparently to distribute to Panamanians who have been short of food because of the strike.

Defiant mill owners retaliated by announcing they were donating the flour to the Roman Catholic Church's food programme for the needy, but troops began raiding the mills before donations could begin.

Esther Kwaiben, treasurer of the Church's programme, said more than 1.3 million pounds (590,000 kilogrammes) of flour stored in the mills apparently had been taken to government warehouses.

At the Harinas Panama Mill, the general manager, Tiso Wolschon, his wife and other company employees were arrested. At General Mills de Panama, troops kicked out all the employees and took over the plant.

Noriega opponents got a boost when groups representing 55,000 retirees announced they will join nationwide street demonstrations the National Civic Crusade has

called for Monday.

"We will block the streets of this country. Let the president come and speak to us in the street," said retiree Manuel Escudero.

Noriega controls Panama through the 15,000-member defence forces that he heads. But that control could weaken the longer his soldiers go without pay. Their payday was Friday, but because of Panama's current cash crisis, they didn't receive money.

Troops raid capital

Armed troops raided the capital's port before dawn, moving aside several ship containers that had been blocking the entrance way to the docks since March 14, when the port's 300 workers went out on strike because they had not been paid.

A few hours later, the nearby union headquarters was wired shut and scores of workers who had been keeping vigil disappeared. National Port Director General Diomedes Concepcion denied reports that some had been arrested.

"The port had to be opened," Concepcion told reporters, "if not, we are aiding the enemy."

Noriega reiterated threats to force banks to hand over an

estimated \$70 million in their vaults so the government could pay its troops.

But the Panamanian Bankers Association, which groups 90 of the 118 Panamanian and foreign banks operating in this country, rejected the request.

The government's request "does not solve the problem of the fiscal and financial crisis of the nation that has deep political roots," said a statement by the group.

Panama ran short of cash last month after U.S. officials blocked all Panamanian funds in the United States, including revenues from the Panama Canal.

Mexico condemns U.S. pressure

In Cancun, Mexican President Miguel de la Madrid Saturday condemned efforts to force Noriega to quit and called it a form of interference in that country's internal affairs.

"We urge that through relection and dialogue it be the Panamanian people who determine their political future," de la Madrid said, referring to the pressures exerted by the Reagan administration on Noriega to relinquish power, although he did not mention the United States by name.

De la Madrid spoke at a news conference after reviewing the situation in Central America during two days of talks with Guatemalan President Vinicio Cerezo of Guatemala in the Caribbean beach resort of Cancun on the tip of Mexico's Yucatan Peninsula.

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Ortega told reporters he had told Gilberto Schiittler, head of the U.N. delegation, Saturday night that "it is important to achieve the stabilisation of the border zone with Honduras, and this is only possible with a multilateral force."

The U.N. team inspected the border Thursday and Friday, the scene of a reported incursion into Honduras by Sandinista Army troops pursuing contra rebels.

U.S. President Ronald Reagan cited the incursion as the reason for sending 3,100 American troops to Honduras on March 17 at the request of Honduran President Jose Azcuna Hoyo.

Ortega said that without a peacekeeping force, "the United States can continue heating up the border... provoking conflicts, increasing its presence to threaten Nicaragua and... kill the Sapo accord."

The Sandinistas and contras agreed to a 60-day ceasefire beginning April 1 during their peace talks last week in Sapo, near the Costa Rican border.

Ortega called on the United States to respect the agreement, saying the United States "must cease its military and logistical aid to the counterrevolutionary forces and simply limit itself to medical aid and basic food" items.

He said Honduran Foreign Minister Carlos Lopez Contreras

had indicated his government was predisposed to "the establishment of a multinational force" on the border in a speech before the Organisation of American states on Nov. 11.

The 100 political prisoners to be released Sunday by the government as part of a gradual amnesty under the accord will be free to remain in Nicaragua or leave, Ortega said.

Government sources said a majority of ministers would re-

tain their jobs.

The outgoing cabinet was appointed last August. Two of its most powerful members — Information Minister Anwar Zaidi and Health Minister Salahuddin Quader Chowdhury — resigned in February over differences with Ershad about the elections.

Major opposition parties boycotted the violence-packed polls on March 3 as part of a protracted campaign to topple Ershad. A coalition of 21 opposition parties has now asked him to resign by April 8 or face an indefinite general strike.

"He wouldn't have undertaken the trip if he faced any serious danger in the country," one Asian diplomat said.

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WORLD NEWS BRIEFS

Thousands march for women's rights

ROME (AP) — Tens of thousands of people marched through central Rome Saturday to call for more job opportunities for women and tougher laws against sexual abuse. Organisers estimated that 100,000 people took part in the mid-afternoon demonstration in which marches slowly made their way across the city's historic centre. The marchers, men and women, came from all parts of Italy by car, train and special buses. They carried banners, chanted slogans and blew whistles. The demonstration was organised by the country's three main labour federations, whose slogan for the protest was "a job for everyone, a different kind of work, a society without violence." They are seeking more jobs and better working conditions for women, including more flexible schedules for working mothers.

Fiji premier en route to London

LONDON (AP) — Fiji's prime minister, Ratu Sir Kamisese Mara, is travelling to London for a private visit, the British Foreign Office said Sunday, but news reports said he is on a mission to restore links with the British Crown. Ratu Sir Kamisese is scheduled to meet Foreign Secretary Geoffrey Howe Tuesday, said a Foreign Office spokesman, speaking anonymously in keeping with British custom. He will meet Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher Tuesday to discuss matters related to Fiji's new constitution, a spokesman for her office said. The Australian Associated Press (AAP) reported he would also see George Newman, the British constitutional law expert who has been advising Fijian President Ratu Sir Penia Ganilau, to discuss restoring links with the crown. Both AAP and the Observer, a London newspaper, said he was scheduled to meet Sir William Heseltine, private secretary to Queen Elizabeth II, before leaving Britain Thursday.

Guerrillas end 116-day hunger strike

PARIS (R) — Four jailed guerrilla leaders have ended a 116-day hunger strike but aim to continue their campaign to win political prisoner status, their lawyer said Saturday. Bernard Ripert, lawyer for the ringleaders of France's extreme left Action Directe group, told Reuters the four gave up their fast Friday. A Justice Ministry spokesman said the government had made "no deals or promises" with the four who had simply "returned to reason." Ripert said Jean-Marc Rouillan, Nathalie Menigon, Joelle Aubron and Georges Cipriani planned to "continue their struggle in another form." They had refused food from Dec. 1 to force prison authorities to put an end to months of strict isolation in high security jails.

Ramos proposes use of reservists

MANILA (R) — The Philippines defence chief has proposed using the country's one million army reservists in the war against left and right-wing rebel groups. "Our reservists should be ready when called upon for duty during emergencies... to counter the Communist insurgency and the (Muslim) separatist movement and other threats besetting us today," Fidel Ramos told air force reservists. "We are presently not at war, but the time to prepare for war and its prevention is during the time of peace." The defence secretary's call came amidst military warnings that Communist New People's Army (NPA) rebels would increase attacks in the run-up to the 19th anniversary of the founding of the guerrilla army on March 29.

Ortega calls for U.N. force on Honduras

MANAGUA (AP) — Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega said he had told a United Nations technical commission visiting the Nicaragua-Honduras border that a multinational peacekeeping force was necessary to stabilise the area.

Nicaragua also announced its delegation for a meeting with contra representatives Monday to define where rebel fighters can locate inside Nicaragua under the ceasefire accord reached in Sapo last week.

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told Gilberto Schiittler, head of the U.N. delegation, Saturday night that "it is important to achieve the stabilisation of the border zone with Honduras, and this is only possible with a multilateral force."

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Jackson blows past Dukakis

DETROIT (AP) — Jesse Jackson won Michigan's primary-like caucuses Saturday, blowing past Michael Dukakis for an industrial state victory that tightened the Democratic presidential race. For Richard Gephardt, third place meant the end was near for his White House hopes.

Jackson defeated Dukakis by almost 2-1 by running strongly across the state and winning huge majorities in Detroit. That broad support meant the preacher-turned-politician scored a delegate plurality as well.

"Today is a message of hope," Jackson said in Milwaukee. "People are responding to authenticity and message and soul over just money and mechanics."

"This is not my night alone,"

he said. "When we, the working people, stand together, we win and we make America stronger."

It was a disappointing night for Dukakis, who has been tried to break away from Jackson to become the frontrunner for the 1988 nomination.

"I don't think I did very well in Michigan," the Massachusetts governor said as he congratulated Jackson.

The news was not all bad for Dukakis as he picked up a win Saturday in North Dakota and was gaining strength in the Iowa county conventions.

Gephardt's hoped-for "Michigan miracle" did not happen. Aides had said the Missouri congressman probably would withdraw from the presidential race for sending 3,100 American troops to Honduras on March 17 at the request of Honduran President Jose Azcuna Hoyo.

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